

# MISE EN SCENE

The release date has finally arrived for the new Wraith 'Inspired By' Film. *Louise Hoffman* introduces this dramatic design and explores the parallels between Rolls-Royce and the silver screen

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It was at the height of the recent 2015 film awards season that a brand new Rolls-Royce bespoke concept entered the limelight. Fitting, given that every element of the launch model's design is inspired by the energy, drama and red carpet glamour of the cinema.

### ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Wraith 'Inspired By' Film, which entered production on March 1, has a set of bespoke features based on its theme. It evokes the sophistication of Hollywood through a silver and black colour palette, with warm notes of macassar ebony in the cross-banded veneer, a two-tone paint finish and an alluring hand-cast solid silver Spirit of Ecstasy.

There is a choice of Anthracite or Seashell leather for the interior, with flashes of Casden Tan detail, Rolls-Royce monograms on the headrests and bespoke 'Inspired By' Film treadplates and clock.

And what better way to savour the design flourishes of the 6.6-litre, twin turbo-charged Wraith 'Inspired By' Film than through the medium of film itself?

To celebrate the launch of this model, Rolls-Royce has created a mesmerising mini-movie, in which the Wraith takes centre stage at a moment of high-drama between two lovers, in an atmospheric world of opulence, shadow and mystery. (OK, so the 'lovers' part might just be my interpretation of it.)

Shot at two top-secret locations close to Barcelona, including a misty forest, the two-minute film climaxes with a 100-camera timeslice, producing 20 seconds of screen time as we circle the silver Wraith, frozen in time.

Rolls-Royce says: "Wraith 'Inspired By' Film evokes a captivating world where the daring and bold take the lead, and where fortune always favours the brave." After watching this film, you will be left in no doubt of that! RR

# ROLLS-ROYCE: in film

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars have graced our screens in all manner of moving pictures, from popular TV series to flamboyant music videos. When it comes to film, these are surely some of the most memorable cameo appearances...



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## THE NAME'S BOND

Rolls-Royce models have been the car of choice in no less than 10 James Bond films, including *From Russia with Love* (1963), in which Bond ally Kerim Bey drove a Silver Wraith, and *Goldfinger* (1964), which featured a 1937 Phantom III owned by Auric Goldfinger, who was named as the 49th greatest villain in the past 100 years of film by the American Film Institute in 2003.

## A TALE OF THREE PHANTOMS

*The Yellow Rolls-Royce* (1964) is probably the best-known of all Rolls-Royce film appearances. Directed by Anthony Asquith and starring Ingrid Bergman, George C Scott and Rex Harrison, the film tells the story of an English aristocrat, a Miami gangster and a wealthy American widow – all very different individuals, but all yellow 1930 Rolls-Royce Phantom II owners. After the film's release, *The Sunday Telegraph* said: "Anyone willing to be taken for a smooth ride could hardly find a more sumptuous vehicle, star-studded, gold-plated, shock-proof and probably critic-proof, too."

## ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT

A Rolls-Royce 40/50hp Silver Ghost appears in the classic film *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962). Widely considered as one of the greatest and most influential films in the history of cinema it is a fitting stage for this classic Rolls-Royce Motor Cars model.



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## CUSTOM-BUILT

The Rolls-Royce 1953 Silver Wraith Sedan de Ville that is driven by Monty (played by the late and great Richard Griffiths) in 1987 comedy drama *Withnail and I* was customised by Hooper coachbuilders for oil magnate Nubar Gulbenkian. A lover of fast and expensive cars, Gulbenkian owned many Rolls-Royce models, flamboyantly customised to reflect his eccentric and colourful personality. The one that appears in the film is a four-door cabriolet with sage-green, lizard-skin trim and lizard-tail-like design flourishes.

## GRACING THE STAGE

A 1955 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud I is part of the cast in the recent *Grace of Monaco* (2014), drawing poignant parallels with the Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud III that was given to Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier as a wedding gift by the people of Monaco.

## 1930s SOPHISTICATION

The Rolls-Royce 20/25 was built between 1929 and 1936 as the successor to the 20hp, and was designed to accommodate a chauffeur. It is widely believed to be one of the finest examples of motor car design in existence, and occupies a key place in popular culture and in the hearts of car enthusiasts. The model has appeared in many films, including *The League of Gentlemen* (1959) and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989), but its classic pre-war shape would not be out of place on the set of *Bugsy Malone*. RR